

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 916

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SUBJECT: SURVEY ON USE CR AND CS GAS

FOLLOWING ARTICLE APPEARED AS LETTER TO EDITOR IN
CATHOLIC-ORIENTED BELFAST IRISH NEWS MAY 5: QUOTE.

U.S. SURVEY ON USE OF GAS AGAINST CIVILIANS

SIR - WE ARE CONDUCTING A SURVEY RELATIVE TO THE USE OF
CR AND CS GAS AGAINST CIVILIANS IN NORTHERN IRELAND OVER
THE LAST SIX YEARS.

WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY REPORTS ON THIS SUBJECT FROM
NORTHERN IRISH DOCTORS WHO HAVE TREATED VICTIMS OF EITHER
TYPE OF GAS. CR GAS WAS USED LAST OCTOBER AT LONG KESH.

NO DOUBT SEVERAL VICTIMS IN DERRY'S BOGSIDE AND ELSEWHERE
HAVE BEEN TREATED BY PHYSICIANS FROM TIME TO TIME, ESPECIALLY
THE YOUNG AND THE ELDERLY.

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO CONDUCT THIS SURVEY AND HAVE
ANY MEANINGFUL RESULTS WITHOUT THE COOPERATION OF PHYSICIANS
AND MEDICAL EXPERTS IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

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FOR THAT REASON, WE WOULD APPRECIATE HEARING FROM ANY

SUCH MEDICAL EXPERTS WITH INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT.
ANYONE WRITING TO US MAY REST ASSURED THAT ANY INFORMATION
GIVEN WILL BE HELD IN THE STRICTEST CONFIDENCE.

WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO HEAR FROM VICTIMS OF EITHER CR
OR CS GAS SO AS TO STUDY THE SYMPTOMS EXPERIENCED BY THE
VICTIMS IN EACH INSTANCE.

TO OUR KNOWLEDGE SUCH A SURVEY HAS NEVER BEEN UNDERTAKEN
IN NORTHERN IRELAND ALTHOUGH THE NEED FOR SAME SEEMS TO
BE QUITE OBVIOUS. - YOURS ETC.

WILLIAM DRISCOLL
PRESS OFFICER, NATIONAL COUNCIL
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